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# ENG 3706-001: American Regional Literature- New York Stories

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## ENGLISH 3706, SECTION 01 – AMERICAN REGIONAL LITERATURE – NEW YORK STORIES

Professor: Dr. Marjorie Worthington  
 Office: Coleman Hall 3556  
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 Email: mgworthington@eiu.edu  
 Class: TR 12:30-1:45, Coleman Hall 3609  
 Office Hours: TR 2:00-3:30pm, or by appt.

**Texts:** Edward Albee, *The Zoo Story*  
 Paul Auster, *New York Trilogy*  
 Stephen Crane, *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets*  
 F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*  
 Jonathan Safran Foer, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*  
 Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman*  
 Toni Morrison, *Jazz*  
 Henry Roth, *Call It Sleep*  
 Edith Wharton, *The House of Mirth*  
 Additional Texts on E-res

**Course Objectives include (but are not limited to):**

- Understanding and practicing several different forms of writing and research about literature.
- Learning to collect evidence and research related to writing about literature
- Exploring literature related to a particular

**Written Assignments:** All of your written assignments must be word-processed unless otherwise stated. You should purchase a folder in which to hand in these assignments because each essay assignment will consist of several different parts that will be turned in on the due date. Assignments **must** be submitted, in their entirety, **on the day they are due** unless you have made prior arrangements with me. Written assignments consist of those listed below, as well as several shorter assignments that will arise as the course progresses. Some of these will be done as in-class activities, some as out-of-class assignments. Consistent attendance is necessary, as this course and the assignments connected with it will change and develop according to the direction in which we want the course to go. You must complete all major written assignments (including the final presentation) to pass this course.

**REQUIREMENTS: YOU MUST COMPLETE ALL WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS TO PASS THIS COURSE.**

**Short, Thesis-Driven Essays (one page, single-spaced):** You will need to write 5 of these essays over the course of the semester. When they are due is based on the first letter of your last name (see group assignments below). You will write about the ideas discussed in that day's reading and you'll need to be prepared to discuss your ideas in class on that day. These essays are NOT "response papers" in which you simply provide your personal reaction to the reading. Instead, your essays should have a

thesis statement and should engage analytically with the ideas from the reading. You should make an *argument* about what you have read.

**Group A-Di; Group B: Dj-Kl; Group C: Km-Me; Group D Mf-Ri; Group E: Rj-Z**

**Short Research Project (6 pages):** This essay will involve exploring some of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century journals and periodicals that published works of literature and criticism to determine what role New York City played in the development of the emerging concept of “American Literature.”

**Long Essay (8-10 pages, double-spaced):** We will be discussing how to do research in literary criticism, which databases work well for which kind of text, and how to read and incorporate this kind of research into your writing. For this essay, you will do some critical research on a text in this course and write a thesis-driven essay based on your findings.

**Final Exam:** This will be cumulative and may involve a take-home portion.

**POLICIES:**

**Attendance:** Your consistent attendance and participation are necessary to make this class the vibrant exchange of ideas it should be and I take attendance every day (even if you do not see me doing it). You are permitted no more than three unexcused absences. Each unexcused absence after three will lower your **final** grade by thirty points (3%). Excused absences are accompanied by appropriate legal or medical documentation.

**Conferences:** The hours listed above are times when I will be in my office ready to meet with students. You can also make a special appointment to see me if you are unable to come during office hours. I encourage you to come and talk to me about your work as often as you like.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is defined as appropriating words or ideas that are not your own without giving proper credit. The temptation to plagiarize can be great, particularly in the advent of extensive computer technology and the collaborative nature of our class. However, the consequences of plagiarism are dire and can result in a grade of F for the assignment and even for the course. It will also result in a report to the Judicial Affairs Office.

**Grade Breakdown:**

Short Essays (x5):	250
Research Project:	250
Long Essay:	250
Final Exam:	250

### ENG 3706 READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- Aug. 26 T Introduction  
28 Th *The Zoo Story*
- ASept. 2 T Irving, Whitman  
B 4 Th Whitman
- C 9 T Melville, *Bartleby the Scrivener*  
D 11 Th Crane, *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets*, Chaps 1-7
- E 16 T *Maggie*, Chaps 8-end  
A 18 Th Wharton, *House of Mirth*, Chaps 1-4
- B 23 T *House of Mirth*, 5-15  
C 25 Th *House of Mirth*, Book II, Chap 1-3
- D 30 T *House of Mirth*, Book II, 4-end  
E Oct. 2 Th Cather, "Coming Aphrodite" & Hart Crane, "Brooklyn Bridge"
- A 7 T Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*, Chaps 1-3  
B 9 Th *Gatsby*, Chaps 4-5
- C 14 T *Gatsby*, 6-end  
D 16 Th Hughes
- E 21 T Toni Morrison, *Jazz*, pp. 3-51  
A 23 Th *Jazz*, pp. 53-162
- B 28 T *Jazz*, pp. 165-end  
C 30 Th Roth, *Call It Sleep*, Chaps 1-8
- D Nov. 4 T *Call It Sleep*, Chaps 9-end, & Burroughs, "Junky"  
E 6 Th Miller, *Death of a Salesman*
- 11 T Auster, *The New York Trilogy*, "City of Glass," **Research Project due**  
13 Th **Film Screening**
- A 18 T *New York Trilogy*, "The Locked Room" (note that this is the THIRD story)  
B 20 Th *New York Trilogy*, "Ghosts"

### THANKSGIVING BREAK

- C Dec. 2 T Foer, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* pp. 1-141 & Delillo, "Falling Man"  
4 Th Foer, pp. 142-186, **Essays due**
- D 9 T Foer, pp. 187-284  
E 11 Th Foer, pp. 285-end

**Wed. Dec. 17, 2:45-4:45, FINAL EXAM**